



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR
INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

10:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioner Bigby, Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Moore

Excused: Commissioner Hammargren and Commissioner Hill

Pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence to be led by Chairperson Montano.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence and a self introduction.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Meeting to be called to order by Chairperson Montaña. (11-1184)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of the March 9, 2011 Minutes. (11-1185)

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Moore, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2011 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
Department of Auditor-Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Community Care Licensing
Internal Services Department
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department (11-0645)

Department of Auditor-Controller's Office

Cassandra Youngblood, Acting Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller, reported that since the last Business Meeting, the department (Ombudsman Office) visited 16 Group Homes, with one incident reported at the Fred Jefferson Group Home by three clients regarding limited access to food in the refrigerator, as it was locked.

Department of Children and Family Services

Dorothy Channel, CSA II of DCFS, informed the Commission that Elizabeth Howard was unable to attend today's meeting. She reported that there were 5 pending General Neglect referrals; 8 physical abuse referrals: 3 evaluated out and 5 pending; and 2 sexual abuse referrals: 1 evaluated out and 1 pending. There were 392 reported runaways.

Ms. Channel extended an invitation for Commissioners to attend "Celebration", which Honors the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth, to be held at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on Tuesday, June 7, 2011.

Ms. Channel will ensure that the Commissioners/Staff receive email copies of DCFS' Group Home Compliance Monitoring Reports. She will also obtain information regarding a youth that may emancipate from foster care at the request of Vice Chairperson Bacio.

Internal Services Department

David Coleman, FSC of the Internal Services Department, reported at Camp Paige/Afflerbaugh the fire cleanup will be completed by mid-May 2011 (laundry/store room), a new liner and lid will be used to update an existing 600,000 gallon domestic water tank, and ISD is in the process of engineering a connection to a municipal sewer line to end use of the treatment plant.

Department of Mental Health

Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health, reported since former Governor Schwarzenegger's veto in October 2010, services for special education youth in residential placement was terminated. Presently, the school district has been providing services from January –June 2011. After June 2011, it is unclear how funding to support services for special

education youth will be acquired or if the school district will continue services.

Probation Department

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Director of Placement Permanency & QA of the Probation Department (PD), reported that there were 75 AWOLS involving 73 youth: 42 remain AWOL, 15 returned to Group Homes, 11 were placed in juvenile hall, 1 was placed in County Jail, 2 were placed on house arrest and 2 were placed in camps. She reported that there were 3 referrals: 2 physical abuse and 1 sexual abuse. There were six Group Home monitoring investigations which all were determined unfounded. An adoption is being heard in court today for a youth's Aunt and Uncle, legal custody of the child should take place in a few months.

Ms. Campbell-Motton invited Commissioners to participate in a DCFS and Probation Department collaboration meeting titled, "System Improvement Plan" that will be held on March 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Amus, Sheriff's Department, introduced Commander Gerald Cooper who is replacing Commander Margaret Ruiz. Commander Cooper is very knowledgeable of inmate custody and corrections and was Captain of the Inmate Reception Center in Los Angeles for 3 years.

Commander Amus reported the State of California authorized the responsibility of overseeing parolees in Los Angeles County to the Sheriff's Department. In addition, the Department will obtain money to provide security in the local courthouses which is separate from the \$100,000,000 cut in the overall budget. The cuts may cause the Sheriff to close Century Regional Detention Facility and a few smaller units. Sheriff Baca has implemented two educational programs: a discipline based class offered to officers so they may learn from their mistakes; and an incarceration based course for inmates leaving jail are better informed. Consideration is being made to use the Chatsworth Courthouse jails that were empty at the last site visit by Commissioner Bigby.

Commander Cooper's office will cut 1000 pieces of reflective tape for the courthouse jails cell locks and exits. The project completion date is April

2011. All of the courts will receive new surveillance equipment. Commissioners Hall and Moore requested painting the lock-up and repairing a broken window at the Compton facility. Vice Chairperson Bacio requested a padded cell for the mental health inmates held at Beverly Hills Courthouse and repair the "A" phone wires that are frayed. Commander Asmus plans to invite the Commission to visit Pasadena Courthouse to view renovations upon completion.

- 4. Chairperson's Report on various items for March 16, 2011. (11-1186)**

Chairperson Montaña read and commented on the following letter and newspaper article:

- A Thank You letter from Sheriff Lee Baca responding to the Commission's letter commending Lieutenant Jeffrey O. Cavanaugh, Pico Rivera Station.**

Los Angeles Times Newspaper Article dated March 14, 2011:

- Reforming Foster Care**

- 5. Treasurer's Report for March 16, 2011. (11-1187)**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$621.09.

- 6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (11-1188)**

- Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioners Hall and Hammargren would like to attend the System Improvement Plan meeting on March 24, 2011 at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.**
- Commissioner Moore would like to receive the DCFS and PD Group Home Monitoring Reports at the weekly meetings.**
- Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren would like to visit the Boys Republic High School in the Chino Valley School District on March 29, 2011.**

- 7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from March 10, 2011 to March 15, 2011. (11-1189)**

Eleanor Montaña

- Children's Homes of Southern California – 9, #1, the facility was visited on March 14, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**
- Clyborne Group Home – 14, #4, the facility was visited on March 15,**

2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Areas of Concern: Driveway needs to be resurfaced, and Needs and Services Plan out of date. A re-visit is scheduled within 30 days.

Commissioner Bigby

- Bourne Inc. – 3, #1, the facility was visited on March 10, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.
- Bourne Inc. – 2, #4, the facility was visited on March 11, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Areas of Concern: Shower doors and floor in Bathroom #1 needs to be replaced, and desks in Bedroom #1 and #2 need to be replaced. Medication cabinet needs to be restocked.
- David & Margaret Home – 11, #3, the facility was visited on March 15, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren

- Luvlee's Residential Care (New Dawn Emancipation) – 26, #4, the facility was visited on March 15, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Commissioners Hall and Moore

- Dangerfield Group Home III – 11, #1, the facility was visited on February 17, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Area of Concern: No record of disaster drills.
- Pennacle Foundation (Corning) – 32, #4, the facility was visited on February 24, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Areas of Concern: The mattress in Bedroom #2 needs to be replaced, First Aid Kits should be replaced, enhance Earthquake supplies and replenish 3 and 7 day supplies. The burner on the stove needs fixing.
- Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation – 9, #4, the facility was visited on March 1, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Areas of Concern: An employee who was arrested for possession with intent to sell narcotics and a letter from the County of Los Angeles granting permission for this individual to be hired at this facility. Commissioner Hall requested background information as it pertains to the hiring practice/standard for hiring individuals with a criminal offense.
- Compton Court – The facility was visited on March 3, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Areas of Concern: Lock-up area needs painting, and a broken window needs repairing.

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- **You Are The Difference Foundation (Loving Life Home II) – 45, #2, the facility was visited on March 8, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**
 - **Fred Jefferson Memorial Home (Compton House) – 19, #2, the facility was visited on March 11, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**
 - **House of Bethesda – 23, #1, the facility was visited on March 15, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Areas of Concern: Unable to review Needs and Services Plan, clothing and spending allowances and staff documentation. Perishable and non-perishable food supplies low. A re-visit will be rescheduled.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Items not posted on the agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission.
There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee.
There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of March 16, 2011.
The March 16, 2011 meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m. in memory of the Earthquake and Tsunami victims in Japan.